

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, TECH, OVIP, ENRG, GW

SUBJECT: EHMKE VISIT

REF: BONN 489, 699

1. DEPARTMENT PLEASED THAT MINISTER EHMKE'S POSTPONED NOVEMBER VISIT IS BEING RESCHEDULED FOR MARCH 2-8. PRESENCE OF EHMKE IN WASHINGTON WILL PROVIDE TIMELY OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON ENERGY, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL MATTERS AS WELL AS BROADER POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SENIOR WASHINGTON POLICY OFFICIALS. FULL SCHEDULE OF APPOINTMENTS BEING ARRANGED IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH GERMAN EMBASSY.

2. DEPARTMENT ALSO SEES UTILITY IN FEBRUARY 11 PREPARATORY VISIT BY SCHMIDT-KUESTER IN LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR EHMKE VISIT.

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3. BEFORE FEBRUARY 11, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY

CLARIFICATION OF COMPETENCIES OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, INTERIOR AND OTHER FRG MINISTRIES IN FIELDS OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL. SPECIFICALLY, WE NEED TO KNOW WHICH ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMPONENTS BELONG IN THE RESPECTIVE MINISTRIES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT GIVEN RECENT MINISTERIAL REORGANIZATIONS AND POSSIBLE EFFECT ON THESE COMPETENCIES OF FEBRUARY 11

WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE. ALTHOUGH SCI OFFICIALS RECALL DISCUSSING THESE AGREEMENTS IN BONN WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY AND NOT WITH RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY MINISTRY, WE ARE WORKING ON ASSUMPTION THAT EHMKE IS NOW AND WILL BE IN MARCH, APPROPRIATE CABINET OFFICER TO SIGN US/FRG AGREEMENTS ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND REACTOR SAFETY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

4. US REACTIONS TO GERMAN PROPOSALS ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT (REFTEL B) FOLLOW SEPTEL. WE SHARE ASSESSMENT OF TECHMIN REPS THAT RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT MAY NOT BE READY FOR SIGNATURE DURING EHMKE VISIT. NONETHELESS, DESPITE LATE RECEIPT OF GERMAN RESPONSE TO USAEC DRAFT FORWARDED JUNE 25, 1973, AND LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE FOR CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF DRAFT, US AGENCIES WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO HAVE BOTH AGREEMENTS READY FOR SIGNATURE BY EHMKE DURING VISIT.

5. PROPOSED FORMAT AND CONTENT OF BILATERAL DECLARATION STRIKES US AS ACCEPTABLE AND USEFUL. HOWEVER, WE PRESENTLY FAVOR SIGNED DECLARATION SIMILAR TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RATHER THAN FORMAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE. ALSO, IN ABSENCE OF FULL DRAFT TEXT, WE PREFER TO DEFER DETAILED COMMENT UNTIL SCHMIDT-KUESTER VISIT. PLEASE CABLE ASAP FULL DRAFT DECLARATION TO EUR/CE AND SCI/SA. KISSINGER

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